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Corps, Massachusetts Fish and Game, establish in-lieu fees for minor impacts to marine resources

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) to establish a program of fees in lieu of on-site mitigation for minor impact to marine resources including Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

The In-Lieu Fee (ILF) program is implemented by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Corps and DMF. The agreement between the Corps and DMF is available on the Corps website.

The In-Lieu Fee mitigation will occur in circumstances where a permittee is required to compensate for the functions and values of marine resources including Essential Fish Habitat lost as a result of the authorization to conduct work in waters of the United States after all efforts are made to avoid and minimize impacts.

Recipients of permits or authorizations for projects in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts may be eligible to use the ILF program to satisfy mitigation requirements of the Corps' Massachusetts Programmatic General Permit (MA PGP). Use of the ILF program is contingent on Corps of Engineers approval.

The ILF program is collecting fees

deposited in DMF's expendable Trust and which will be used for the restoration, creation, enhancement, and preservation of EFH resources within the waters of Massachusetts.

The ILF program will provide compensation for lost marine functions and values that result from activities authorized under the MA PGP.

The fee in-lieu of project-specific mitigation will be determined by the Corps in consultation with the Steering Committee comprised of appropriate Federal and State agencies. The permit will state the amount of the fee to be paid before the authorized work may begin.

The base value is currently at \$10

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Heroes Welcome

The Massachusetts Maritime Academy Ship KENNEDY made an early morning arrival through the Cape Cod Canal, Feb. 22. Hundreds of local residents lined the banks of the Canal to cheer and welcome the ship and her crew home. (Photo by Kevin Burke)

Yankee Voices

Ted Soter and Tim Hays



Sympathy

...to the family of Engineering retiree **Doris Kaplan**, who passed away Jan. 23. Ms. Kaplan retired from the New England Division in 1980.

... to **Mike Sheehan**, Regulatory, on the passing of his father, James Sheehan, March 8.

Congratulations

... to **Mark Koenig**, GeoEnvironmental Engineering Branch who is the WE Committee's employee of the month for March. Koenig is recognized for his outstanding chemistry support for several of our most complex and highly visible environmental remediation projects at the New England District. His work on analytical and sampling methods for training related contaminants at MMR have made him a national resource for crosscutting issues affecting the U.S. Army nationally.

Words worth repeating

You can't wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club.

- **Jack London**

New England District collects pencils for Gulf Region Division 'birthday'



The Gulf Region Division is having a milestone birthday, and the New England District's Natural Resource Management Team decided to send them a birthday gift – pencils!

The Pencil Drive took place March 3-4, in the Concord Park Cafeteria. Prizes were awarded for the most pencils donated. Robert Ruggiero took first place, with Reese Piper taking second, followed by Janet Brayden in

third. The WE Committee provided prizes and postage toward the Pencil Drive event.

The Natural Resource Management Team, in cooperation with the District's Work Environment Committee, collected over 2,400 pencils at a pencil drive held during the North Atlantic Division's Natural Resource Management Conference held at Concord Park. "We filled a 14" x 14" box to the brim," confirmed Drive Coordinator Reese Piper.

Why pencils? The GRD wanted to celebrate five years in Iraq by doing something special for the country's children. The traditional five year anniversary gift is wood, so members of the GRD decided that they would collect pencils throughout 2009 and distribute them to Iraqi schools and Iraqi children as part of their "Marking History" campaign. Constructing quality schools for Iraqi children has always been a priority for the Division.

Although the pencil drive at the District has ended, those who would like to contribute to the drive can still do so through 2009. GRD asks donors to please mark on the box and inside the box how many pencils are enclosed for tracking purposes. All new, plain pencils will be accepted. The Division asks donors to avoid pencils with cartoon characters or any other objects that may offend host nation sensibilities.

Pencil donations may be sent to:

Marking History Campaign
GRD G3
APO AE 09348



Corps proposes maintenance dredging of Green Harbor

Plan will restore channel to authorized dimensions

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

The New England District is proposing to perform maintenance dredging of the Federal navigation project at Green Harbor in Marshfield, Mass.

Green Harbor is a regionally significant fishing port which is home to both commercial fishing vessels and recreational vessels. The authorized Federal navigation project provides for an 8-foot deep and 6-foot deep, 100-foot wide entrance channel extending from deep water to a point just above the "Narrows." The inner harbor consists of a 6-foot deep anchorage area. The proposed work involves maintenance dredging to remove approximately 50,000 to 60,000 cubic yards of primarily silt/clay material from the 6-foot deep anchorage and may involve a minor amount of maintenance dredging to remove sand and gravel from the 8-foot deep and 6-foot deep, 100-foot wide entrance channel portion of the Federal navigation project.

Additionally, the town of Marshfield is proposing to remove approximately 3,000 to 5,000 cubic yards of material from an area adjacent to the Town Pier concurrently with the Federal maintenance project. Maintenance dredging of the inner harbor anchorage area was last performed in the early 1980s. Hydrographic surveys indicate that the controlling depth in the authorized 6-foot deep anchorage area has been reduced to less than two feet.

"Shoaling in the anchorage area creates tidal delays, it limits the available space to moor vessels and causes many vessels to be hard-aground at lower stages of the tidal cycle," said Project Manager Bill Kavanaugh, of the Corps' New England District, Programs/Project Management Division. "The entrance channel portion of the Federal navigation project was last maintained in 2007 and may require maintenance dredging to remove a minor amount of re-shoaling to

restore authorized dimensions."

The proposed work will be performed by a mechanical dredge and attendant scows. Contingent on the availability of the necessary approvals and funds, the work will be performed within a 4-5 month period during the late fall of 2009 to early winter of 2010.

Dredged material from the inner harbor anchorage area has undergone physical and chemical analysis and is currently undergoing biological testing to determine its suitability for unconfined open water disposal at the Massachusetts Bay Disposal Site (MBDS). Contingent upon the proposed dredged material being determined suitable for open water disposal, the dredged material from the anchorage area will be disposed of at MBDS. Contingent on the dredged material from the town of Marshfield's project being deemed suitable for open water disposal, the dredged material from the town's project may also be disposed of at the MBDS.

The dredged material from the entrance channel has undergone physical analysis in the past and has been deemed suitable for disposal at the previously used near-shore disposal area off of Green Harbor Beach. The near-shore disposal area was last used in 2007 for disposal of the dredged material from the entrance channel maintenance dredging project.

An Environmental Assessment for this work is being prepared and will be made available for review. It is the Corps' preliminary determination that no threatened or endangered species in the project area will be impacted by the proposed project. Public comments on this proposed work were accepted through March 24.

The public notice for this proposed work, with more detailed information, is available for review on the Corps website at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select "public services" and then "navigation" and then "public notices" or go directly to the link at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/navigation/pubnot2.asp>.

Corps, Mass. Dept. of Fish and Game, establish in-lieu fees for minor impacts to marine resources

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per square foot of impact with a minimum payment of \$150. Compensatory mitigation ratios are applied as follows: open water 1:1; salt marsh 2:1 to 4:1; submerged aquatic vegetation 3:1 to 5:1; streams 2:1; and intertidal 2:1.

The public notice can be reviewed online at the Corps' New England District website <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>. Select Regulatory/Permitting

and then weekly public notices. Questions on this program (File # NAE-2007-2936) should be directed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Regulatory Division (ATTN: Karen Adams), 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751. Additional information is available from Karen Adams at 978-318-8828 or toll free 800-343-4789 or 800-362-4367 (if calling from within Massachusetts) or by e-mail to karen.k.adams@usace.army.mil.



Ron Martin presents Bill Mahan with a Logistics Design Memento during Mahan's pizza party.

Photos by Brian Murphy

Bill Mahan retires from federal service with 32 years

Bill Mahan, Regional Logistics Liaison and local artist, decided to put down his pencil and pick up his paint brush full time.

Mahan retired from federal service after 32 years. To celebrate his career, over 50 friends and co-workers from all over the country crowded into the Massachusetts and Connecticut Conference Rooms for a pizza party held in his honor.

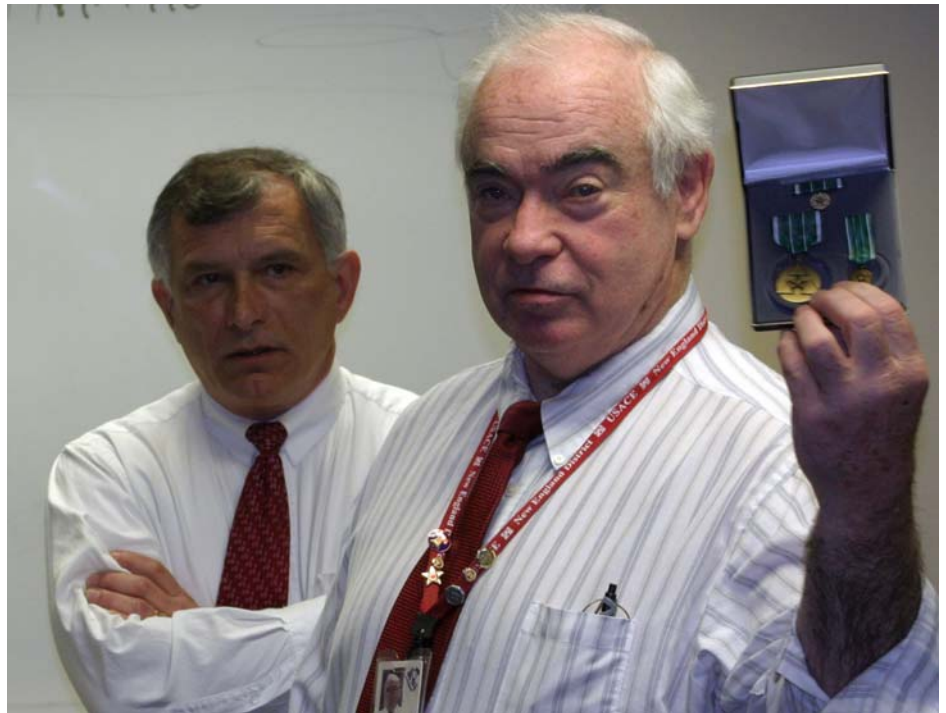
Steve Andon, Executive Assistant, served as Master of Ceremonies. He presented Mahan with cards signed by the attendees as well as a cash gift for art supplies. Andon also presented Mahan with a gift certificate to the Bass Pro Shop from his Logistics co-workers.

The first speaker, Ron Martin, Acting Regional Liaison, said he was pleased to be able to represent the entire Logistics Family at the party. "I've known Bill for about 10 years and worked with him on USACE 2012 and the reorganization of Logistics," he said. "I'm wearing black today because I'm going to miss him."

Martin presented Mahan with the Commander's Award for Civilian Service for his exceptional work in the

Logistics field. Martin also presented Mahan with one of the first Logistics Design Mementos—a new award given to outgoing Logistics Directors in appreciation for their service. "Thank you for being my friend and supporter," said Martin before he joked, "I'm going to need you to come over in June to paint my house."

Dick Carlson, Construction/Operations, said that his affection for Logistics began in Korea. He told a story about how he worked with Logistics at that time to get rid of some property and the result had everyone in attendance laughing. "I always went down to see Bill whenever I had a problem," he said. "And Bill was always gracious to



Bill Mahan shows off the medal that accompanied his Commander's Award.

me when I visited.”

Col. Philip Feir, District Commander, gave a brief history of Mahan's Logistics career. Following his service in Vietnam, Mahan started his civilian career at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, then went to Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Mass., and then finally came to New England District. “Retirements are never easy to do because it is bittersweet for everyone,” he said. “Bill has his painting, his boat and other hobbies to keep him busy during his retirement, but we hope he will come back and participate in the District's many activities.”

Col. Feir presented Mahan with a Bunker Hill Plaque for his faithful and dedicated service to the New England District. The District Commander also had a certificate of appreciation for Mahan's wife, Peg, for her support and dedication to Mahan during his federal career. Mrs. Mahan was unable to attend, but her husband accepted the award on her behalf.

Col. Feir concluded the official portion of the retirement party by presenting Mahan with his retirement certificate, his retirement pin, and a New England District coin.

When it was his turn to speak, Mahan recalled returning from Vietnam and that his welcome home was not a warm one. “The Army was the only organization that would hire me at the time,” he recalled. “I have been lucky to work with a number of great people, peaked by coming to work for the Corps of Engineers. You are doing God's work and I totally support you. Don't take any grief from anyone.”

Mahan plans to take it easy for the first few months of his retirement. After that he said he plans to paint, go boating, and work on a variety of other projects and hobbies.

Special guests that attended Mahan's party were Vicky Rohr, Baltimore District; Robert Goldfarg, New York District; Antonio Zapata, the new Regional Logistics Liaison and Joe Lee, Philadelphia District.



The crowd that attended Bill Mahan's pizza party spilled out into the hallway.



Col. Philip Feir, District Commander, presents Bill Mahan with a New England District coin.



Annie Chin wishes Bill Mahan the best of luck during his pizza party.



Park Rangers were able to view the Natural Resource Management display during the conference.

Photos by Brian Murphy

NAD Natural Resource Management Conference held at Concord Park

The 2009 North Atlantic Division's Natural Resource Management Conference was held at New England District's Concord Park Headquarters, March 3-5. Approximately 75 individuals from NAD, NAB, NAP and NAE participated in the three-day event.

The first day morning session included remarks from Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, North Atlantic Division Commander, who discussed a variety of topics to include the stimulus bill; using the resources the Division has wisely to accomplish the critical parts of our mission; and In Kind services and partnerships. Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre gave opening remarks and welcomed the audience. Other speakers in the morning included Frank Fedele, Linda Monte of USACE Headquarters, and Dick Carlson, Chief, Construction Operations.

After a break, Mike Keegan and Dave Goodrich gave a presentation on the Water Team, debris missions and blue roofing. They discussed opportunities for joining the National Water Team and other disaster missions. "The intent was to inform new rangers of the various types of Emergency

Response deployment missions that they can get involved with," said Dave Schafer, EOC. "Our aim was to possibly recruit new team members and increase our chances of getting enough volunteers when we are tasked to provide support for relief operations."

Josh Levesque followed Keegan and Goodrich with a GIS presentation. After lunch there was an hour long discussion on Certified Erosion Control and then James West presented a Sign Shop update.

Bruce Williams discussed the Volunteer Programs and the importance of using volunteers in our parks to provide additional work capacity at the dams and at the canal. "This includes volunteer park hosts to collect fees and help our visitors, providing uniforms for our volunteer workforce, what type of volunteer agreements can be used, how and where to recruit volunteers to work in our parks and expanding the use of volunteers beyond the recreation program and look for opportunities to use volunteer help for stewardship, navigation and flood control activities as well," explained Williams.

Dina Dreisback concluded the day with a Tioga-Hammond Volunteer Program briefing.

The second day of the conference consisted of three break-out sessions with three topics each ranging from Grassland bird habitat to In-Kind services that ran throughout the day.

In between the breakout sessions, Paul Marinelli brought everyone up to date on administrative changes within the Reservoir Regulation Section, including the promotion of Greg Hanlon to a Technical Expert, and the addition of Jack Keenan to the Section. "I further discussed a variety of topics including a list of accomplishments last year and our current assignments this year," said Marinelli. "A brief discussion of 'damages prevented' by individual projects was also presented. The main focus was the importance of snow survey data collection, the methodology, how snow melts, what the significance is, whether it can produce flooding and how we interpret the data associated with flood potential, etc. The presentation ended with a light-hearted look at the right way and wrong way of performing snow data collection."

Steve Patchkofsky did a briefing on the National Water Safety Committee. "As the division water safety representative, I gave a short update on water safety, new topics, and answered general questions," he said. His brief included the mandatory life jacket test and the life jacket loaner programs, the Bobber character costume and Seamoor the Water Safety Dinosaur, and the water safety catalog.

Other presentations included one from the District Safety Office by Sean Dolan; Blue Marsh Lake Special Events by Kathy Grim; National Uniform Committee briefing by Ralph Gendron and Geo-Tec and ISOP updates.

After attending Visitor Assistance Refresher Training by Bill Jackson that included situational awareness and



Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, North Atlantic Division Commander, briefs Park Rangers during the conference.

Personal Self Defense, the Park Rangers spent their final day of the conference learning about visitor assistance, safety, and personal protection and received a Verbal Judo refresher class. Conference attendees made their way to the Hanscom Air Force Base Gymnasium to end the event with Visitor Assistance Refresher hands-on training.



North Atlantic Division Park Rangers pose for a picture during the NAD Natural Resource Management Conference.

Dredging up the past . . .



Employees at Buffumville Dam pose for a portrait when the project was named Project of the Year in this September 1, 2000 photo.

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